

ENG 340: Language Change and Development

Fall Semester 2018

Location: *XΩΔ 01* Room 005
M/TH 1:30pm-3:00pm

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Office hours: M/TH 10:30am-12pm,
W 12pm-3pm and by appointment
Location: *XΩΔ 02* Room B101

Course Description

Overview:

This course merges two fields of research, namely language acquisition and historical linguistics, and more specifically language change. We will examine the theories and methodologies related to the acquisition of first language and learn about the acquisition of different language areas. We will address different types of change phonological, morphological, semantic, and syntactic and the methods used to investigate these changes. We will also explore the social and linguistic motivations for change from the perspective of language acquisition. The course focuses on ways to unify the two fields of research by examining and explaining linguistic change as following naturally from how language is acquired.

Course Objectives

At the completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Describe, compare, and contrast theories of language development and apply them to child language
- Define and provide examples of the components of language (phonetics/phonology, morphology, syntax and semantics) and identify examples of each in observations of child language.
- Learn about the types of changes in different components of grammar that commonly occur and apply reconstruction techniques
- Learn about change in language contact and child language development

Course Details

Grade Distribution

Assignments.....	30%
Response Paper	15%
Midterm Exam.....	25%
Final Exam.....	30%

Assignments

Assignments will be given on Thursday and are due back at **the beginning of class** on the following Monday. All homeworks should be **typed and printed**. Only hard-copies are allowed, and no email submissions will be accepted. Homework submitted late will be deducted one grade for each day it is late. You may work with classmates in order to figure out the homework problems but all work you turn in must be exclusively your own.

Response paper

A response paper communicates a personal viewpoint and learning as they relate specifically to the class, paper, article, etc. in question and the ideas contained therein. For this class, students have to write a response paper for one of the papers posted on the class website (**min.2 pages, double space, due Nov 30**).

Exams

There will be no opportunities to retake, postpone, or take an exam early. Make-up exams will only be allowed for extraordinary circumstances (verification required e.g., physician's note). If you know you are going to miss an exam for any reason, please notify me as soon as possible BEFORE the exam so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

Attendance/Participation

Attendance in lectures is obligatory.

Classroom Etiquette

Students have an obligation to their classmates and instructor to behave in such a manner as to enhance the learning environment. Please do not engage in behavior which disrupts class or otherwise detracts from the ability of your fellow students to learn. Such behaviors include arriving at class late, leaving before class is dismissed, speaking while others are speaking, reading magazines in class, cell-phones ringing etc.

Readings

(The numbers next to the items in the list below can be found in the course schedule.)

A. Textbook:

- [1] Child Language: Acquisition and Growth/Barbara Lust
- [2] Language History, Language Change and Language Relationship: An Introduction to Historical and Comparative Linguistics/edited by Hans Henrich Hock and Brian D. Joseph (2009 edition, [2nd Revised Edition])

B. Additional readings (optional, unless specified in the schedule)

- [3] First Language Acquisition: The Essential Readings/Edited by Barbara C. Lust and Claire Foley.
- [4] How to set Parameters: Arguments from Language Change/ David Lightfoot
- [5] The Language Instinct: The New Science of Language and Mind /Steven Pinker
- [6] Historical Linguistics/Lyle Campbell
- [7] Historical Syntax/edited by Adam Ledgeway and Ian Roberts
- [8] Historical Linguistics: Theory and Method/Mark Hale
- [9] The Development of Language: Acquisition, Change and Evolution/ David Lightfoot

Tentative Schedule

The schedule on the syllabus is subject to change. Changes, if any, will be announced in class.

Tentative Schedule

Wk.	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>
1 3/9-7/9	Introduction [1] Ch 2	Poverty of the Stimulus [4] Ch 3, [1] Ch 3
2 10/9-14/9	Theories of LA [1] Ch 4	Methods of LA [1] Ch 7
3 17/9-21/9	Acquisition of Phonology I [1] Ch 8	Acquisition of Phonology II [3] Ch 22
4 24/9-28/9	Acquisition of Morphology/Syntax [3] Ch 18	Acquisition of Syntax I [1] Ch 9
5 1/10-5/10	NO CLASS	Acquisition of Syntax II [3] Ch 14 & 15
6 8/10-12/10	Acquisition of Semantics I [1] Ch 10	Acquisition of Semantics II Fisher et al. (2010)
7 15/10-19/10	MIDTERM	Linguistic Change [7] Ch 23
8 22/10-26/10	Sound Change I [2] Ch 4	Sound Change II
9 29/10-2/11	Change in Word Structure I [2] Ch 5	Change in Word Structure II
10 5/11-9/11	Syntactic Change [6] Ch 9	Methods and Tools [7] Ch 9, 10
11 12/11-16/11	Semantic Change I [2] Ch 7	Semantic Change II
12 19/11-23/11	Language Contact [2] Ch 14	Acquisition and Change I [3] Ch 28
13 26/11-30/11	Acquisition and Change II [7] Ch 18	Review